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Global health and foreign policy

Scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance convened by the President of the General Assembly

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 19 of its resolution 70/183, decided to hold a high-level meeting in 2016 on antimicrobial resistance and requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Director General of the World Health Organization, and in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to determine options and modalities for the conduct of such a meeting, including potential deliverables. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.
2. On 26 May 2015, the World Health Assembly, in its resolution 68.7, adopted a global action plan on antimicrobial resistance, which provides a technical blueprint for addressing antimicrobial resistance. The high-level meeting convened by the President of the General Assembly will increase political awareness, engagement and leadership and strengthen multisectoral action on antimicrobial resistance.
3. The Secretary-General invites the President of the General Assembly to initiate an open and transparent consultative process with Member States to finalize the modalities and outcomes proposed in the present report.

II. Proposed modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting

A. Date and venue

4. It is proposed that the high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance convened by the President of the General Assembly be held on Wednesday, 21 September 2016, at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The venue of the meeting will



be announced in due course. All scheduled meetings will be announced in the *Journal of the United Nations*.

B. Overall theme

5. The proposed overall theme of the high-level meeting is "Antimicrobial resistance".

C. Schedule of meetings and organization of work

6. The high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance may consist of: (a) an opening segment; (b) multi-stakeholder panels or an interactive exchange; and (c) a closing segment.

D. Opening and closing segments

7. The high-level meeting may begin with opening remarks by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Director General of the World Health Organization, the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Director General of the World Organization for Animal Health, subject to availability and confirmation.

8. A brief closing segment may be held at the end of the day, comprising the endorsement of a possible outcome document (see para. 18 below) and closing remarks by the President of the General Assembly.

E. Multi-stakeholder panels

9. The following themes are proposed in the event that Member States decide to conduct more than one multi-stakeholder panel:

- (a) Health and health system implications;
- (b) Implications on agriculture and the economy;
- (c) Multisectoral actions and research and development.

10. Two Co-Chairs may be appointed by the President of the General Assembly for each panel. Co-Chairs may be identified from among representatives attending the high-level meeting at the level of Head of State or Government, in consultation with the regional groups. One Co-Chair will represent a developing country and the other a developed country. The President of the General Assembly may also invite the heads or senior officials of relevant institutional stakeholders to serve as a speaker on the panel.

11. Each panel should be open to participation by representatives of all Member States, observer States and observers; relevant entities of the United Nations system and accredited civil society organizations; and representatives of business sector entities. Each representative may be accompanied by one adviser. The list of stakeholders will be communicated by the President of the General Assembly in accordance with the established practice of the Assembly.

12. Each panel may consist of three to four panellists. Each oral statement will be limited to three minutes, although this should not preclude the distribution of more extensive texts.

13. The Secretary-General invites the President of the General Assembly to seek to achieve gender parity at all levels of the panels, to the extent feasible.

F. Participation

14. By its resolution 70/183, the General Assembly decided to hold the meeting at a high level. In this regard, the Secretary-General strongly encourages all Member States to participate in the meeting at the highest level possible.

15. The Secretary-General wishes to emphasize that civil society can make a valuable contribution to the process, both in terms of substantive contributions and by raising awareness of the issues. Civil society participation will be informed by prevailing and applicable arrangements.

G. Participation in the interactive exchange or multi-stakeholder panels

16. Should the General Assembly decide to convene multi-stakeholder panels, as in previous high-level meetings, it is recommended that the Co-Chairs of the panels also be at the level of Head of State or Government, as indicated in paragraph 10 above. The participation of Member States in each of the panels would be subject to the principle of equitable geographical distribution and the achievement of gender balance.

17. In addition, the General Assembly may wish to make specific provisions to allow for the participation in the interactive exchange or panels by heads of entities of the United Nations system, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and the private sector.

III. Outcome of the high-level meeting

18. The high-level meeting may wish to endorse a document as its outcome at the closing segment. The document would record a renewal of existing commitments, help to galvanize coordinated action among all stakeholders and elicit the funding necessary to ensure the achievement of related development goals. To this end, the document could be based on four broad areas: (a) recognition and endorsement of the global action plan as the primary blueprint for national planning; (b) a call for Governments to enable and facilitate a multisectoral approach to antimicrobial resistance; (c) a call for Governments, major development banks and technical agencies and partners to provide the resources required by countries to develop and implement effective national and subnational plans; and (d) the establishment of a multisectoral monitoring mechanism to review and assess progress in implementing the global action plan and the level and trends of antimicrobial resistance.